



Illinois Department of Transportation

For Immediate Release

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO HOLD PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES ON THE STATE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced today that it will hold six public open houses to obtain input for the State Transportation Plan Update from May 29 through June 7. The current State Transportation Plan, Connecting Illinois, was revised in December 2005. To comply with state law, an updated plan is scheduled to be published in December 2007.

Following are the dates and locations of the six public open houses:

Tuesday, May 29, 2007 Springfield 4:00-7:00 PM IDOT Training & Conference Center Training Room A 3215 Executive Park Drive Springfield, Illinois 62764	Wednesday, May 30, 2007 Carterville 4:00-7:00 PM John A. Logan College John A. Logan Conference Center - Main Entrance Room F-130 700 Logan College Road Carterville, IL 62918	Thursday, May 31, 2007 Collinsville 4:00-7:00 PM Illinois Department of Transportation Regional Governor's Conference Room 1102 Eastport Plaza Road Collinsville, IL 62234
Tuesday, June 5, 2007 Bloomington-Normal 4:00-7:00 PM Bloomington Airport Conference Room 3210 CIRA Drive Bloomington, IL 61704	Wednesday, June 6, 2007 LaSalle-Peru 4:00-7:00 PM Illinois Valley Community College Building C Room C316 815 North Orlando Smith Avenue Oglesby, IL 61348	Thursday, June 7, 2007 Chicago 4:00-7:00 PM Illinois Department of Transportation 300 West Adams, 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60606

This Plan provides the policy framework for the difficult decisions that must be made to address current and emerging transportation problems and concerns. "IDOT faces a daunting task to preserve the complex transportation system created by past Illinois investments in highways, transit, airports, waterways and railroads. This must be achieved while enhancing the system with carefully planned highway development, improved services for intercity rail and public transportation, and enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities," said IDOT's Acting Secretary of Transportation, Milt Sees.

The eight policy factors that IDOT considers in the Long-Range Development of the Illinois Transportation System are:

- Managing the existing infrastructure to ensure efficient performance
- Accommodating future growth in population and employment
- Ensure global economic competitiveness
- Providing transportation for underserved populations such as the elderly, children and persons with disabilities
- Protecting the environment
- Assuring safety for all transportation users
- Securing adequate funding for maintaining and improving the transportation systems
- Providing security measures to ensure the continued operation of the system.

The plan will address these issues through a set of draft special reports. Following formal acceptance of the update, IDOT will work on further refining the plan to develop a preliminary Strategic Transportation System.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the public open houses. At the open houses, the public will be able to discuss the Plan with representatives from the Illinois State Transportation Plan Update team. If you are not able to attend, visit www.IllinoisTransportationPlan.org to communicate and share information about the plan update process and product. The website offers residents, visitors and businesses that use the transportation system an opportunity to comment on the plan through a comment page on the website. The comment period for the review of the draft special reports ends June 22, 2007.

All six of the public open house sites are accessible to persons with disabilities. If special accommodations or interpreters are needed, please contact IDOT's office at 217-782-0378.

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